REMARKS

Claims 1-76 remain pending in the present invention. Claims 1 and 44 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

ELECTION OF SPECIES

The Examiner has required an Election of Species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following patentably distinct species.

I.   Figure 1;

II.   Figure 16;

III.   Figure 17;

IV.   Figure 18;

V.   Figure 19;

VI.   Figure 20;

VII.   Figure 21;

VIII.   Figure 22;

IX.   Figure 23; and,

X.   Figure 24.

Applicants, without traverse, respectfully request the Examiner to proceed with Species I illustrated in Figure 1. Applicants believe Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12-21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30-33, 39-41, 44-46, 48, 50-58, 61, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 72-74 and 76 read on the elected species. Applicants request that the non-elected claims be held in abeyance for possible rejoinder and/or further prosecution in future divisionals and/or continuation applications.

Regarding independent Claims 27 and 65, Applicants believe that seal 124 comprises the first lip seal and seal 128 comprises the second lip seal. The component in the claim could be defined as annular base plate 100 or upper seal plate 110.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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